MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The petition presented to the Dewan was forwarded to the Chief Engineer, and that addressed to the Chief Engineer was forwarded to the Executive Engineer for report. From the report of the Chief Engineer it was seen that a small strip of road *poramboke* was leased out in auction to the traders for erecting sheds as a temporary measure during the Oachira *Kali* festival, leaving sufficient space on the road side for the convenience of the public.

(2) The answer is in the negative.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): To part (2) of the question the Government give the answer in the negative. The question relates to the inconvenience caused to the public by the auctioning away of the poramboke land adjoining the road. May I know from the Government whether the decision of the Government in this matter is not based merely upon the reports of the gentlemen who form the offending parties themselves, namely the reports of the Executive Engineer and his subordinates?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): No decision was passed by Government in this matter.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Did any other officer inspect the locality except the officers of the P. W. D.?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is given there.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In view of the fact that the trouble to the people was caused by these officers themselves, will the Government be pleased to conduct an enquiry through any other officer?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There is no trouble caused to the public. On the other hand, the report to Government is that some convenience was afforded to the public. This can also be seen from the fact that trouble, if any, was caused to a registered holder of land.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the Government are aware that there are enough of bits of land which can be used for the purpose of shops, belonging to Government as well as to the private people in the locality, without going in for the porambokes in the immediate vicinity of the road?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The information of the Government is that no inconvenience was caused to the public. If the member wants to suggest that another place would be more convenient for erecting shops, he should address the local authorities first, and if they are remiss in accepting his proposal he might then move the Government.

Applications for lowering of age from Government Servants.

27. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

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(*a*) how many applications have been received from Government servants during 1100, 1101 and 1102, for reducing their age as entered originally in the record of their services;

(*b*) the principle on which these applications have been accepted or considered;

(*c*) how many applications presented for reducing age during 1100, 1101 and 1102 have been allowed, how many were rejected and how many are now pending with the Government;

(*d*) whether any evidence is taken on these applications and, if so, the nature of the evidence required; and

(*e*) whether the Government are prepared to consider any applications or representations made from or evidence given by the public or otherwise in order to show the incorrectness of the applications made for reducing age?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Four applications.

(*b*) Applications are not granted except when absolutely incontrovertible evidence of the correct age is produced.

(*c*) One was allowed; two were rejected; and one is pending with Government.

(*d*) Yes; reliable age certificates or horoscopes.

(*e*) Except in case of proved clerical error the Government view these applications with disfavour. As proof positive is the determining factor in arriving at a decision, evidence in disproof is not necessary.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know why some evidence which the public volunteers to put before the Government is not wanted? That is with regard to part (*e*) of the answer.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not necessary. Government can decide without such evidence, as the person who asks for a change of age has to prove it absolutely to the satisfaction of the Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): If the public or any other men who know that the application is incorrect, volunteer to place evidence before the Government, why should the Government view it with disfavour?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because it is not necessary. Government can very easily arrive at a decision from the papers before them without such help.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is it not a question of weighing evidence on either side?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As the answer itself says, Government view with disfavour all applications for change of age and the presumption is that the original entry is correct.

Report against Councillors by the President of the Trivandrum Municipal Council.

28. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the present President of the Trivandrum Municipal Council has made any report against the councillors

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